



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2020

Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

2019 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Charleston, West Virginia – Red meat production in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 8.2 million pounds during 2019. This was down 2 percent from 2018 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 34 on January 1, 2020, unchanged from the previous year.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2019 totaled 10,800 head, up 3 percent from 2018. Total live weight was 10.70 million pounds, down less than 1 percent from 2018. The average live weight was 990 pounds, down 30 pounds from 2018.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter during 2019 totaled 7,700 head, down 13 percent from 2018. Total live weight was 2.22 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2018. The average live weight was 288 pounds, up 3 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – Total red meat production for the United States totaled 55.1 billion pounds in 2019, 3 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 55.0 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 93.1 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 27.2 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 79.0 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 27.7 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 153.2 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2018.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2019 totaled 33.6 million head, up 2 percent from 2018, with federal inspection comprising 98.6 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,344 pounds, down 6 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.7 percent, dairy cows 9.7 percent, other cows 9.6 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 587,000 head, 1 percent higher than a year ago with 98.6 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 221 pounds, down 5 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 129.9 million head, 4 percent higher than 2018 with 99.5 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 285 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.4 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.32 million head, was up 3 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 87.0 percent of the total. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from 2018 at 128 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.3 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 835 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2020 compared with 837 last year. Of these, 670 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2019 with the 12 largest plants slaughtering 52 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 619 plants, with the 14 largest plants accounting for 59 percent of the total. For calves, 4 of the 187 plants accounted for 66 percent of the total and 3 of the 521 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2019 comprised 49 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2019, unchanged from 2018.